

SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

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SENSITIVE

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SUBJECT: CAMBODIA--THE MILITARY SITUATION

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The Khmer Communists are continuing to shell Phnom Penh from positions on the city's southern front despite government counter-fire and air strikes. Yesterday's shelling--18 howitzer rounds and two rockets-- was the lightest attack in four days. Meanwhile, the Cambodian Army effort against insurgent units both north and south of the Prek Thnaot River remains stalled in the face of stiff resistance. Southeast of the capital, Communist elements operating along the Bassac River are now in control of two short stretches of riverbank opposite Takhmau, Phnom Penh's southern suburb. These gains put Communist mortar crews within range of Phnom Penh's primary electric power station.

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